

Assembly Bill No. 2587

CHAPTER 615

An act to add Section 411 to the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to food.

[Approved by Governor September 16, 2002. Filed with Secretary of State September 17, 2002.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2587, Matthews. Food: water usage forecasts.

Existing law establishes the Department of Food and Agriculture and charges it with various duties and obligations.

This bill would require the Department of Food and Agriculture to estimate food, fiber, livestock, and other farm products production, as specified, and provide that information to the Department of Water Resources for estimating related water usage, and the Chairs of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources, as specified, for inclusion in a bulletin by the Department of Water Resources estimating the state's water needs. This bill would also state the intent of the Legislature in regard to that bulletin.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. It is the intent of the Legislature that the food forecasts made by the Department of Food and Agriculture and the Department of Water Resources shall include the following considerations:

(1) Neither the state nor the nation should be allowed to become dependent upon a net import of foreign food.

(2) As the nation's population grows, California should produce enough food to supply the state and also continue to supply the historical proportion of the nation's food supply, approximately 25 percent of the nation's table food.

(3) Countries such as Japan are heavily dependent on imported food, some of which comes from California. California is also called upon to ship food to prevent famines and to protect our national interest by providing food to maintain stability elsewhere in the world. Consideration should be given to maintaining the state's ability to meet these export needs.

SEC. 2. Section 411 is added to the Food and Agricultural Code, to read:

411. (a) The Department of Food and Agriculture shall supply the Department of Water Resources with a forecast that estimates the amount of production of food, fiber, livestock, and other farm products.

(b) As part of the forecast, the Department of Food and Agriculture's assumptions shall be based upon 20-year estimates that include, but are not limited to, the following data:

(1) Land use conversion rates and the amount of land available for agricultural production.

(2) The growing need for food, fiber, livestock and other farm products as the state's and the nation's populations grow.

(3) Implementation of irrigation technology and other on-farm water conservation measures.

(4) Advances in crop yields and production techniques.

(5) Alternate uses of crops.

(c) The department shall include an additional table in the forecast that estimates the agricultural water needs based upon food security considerations that include, at a minimum, the following:

(1) Population growth estimates.

(2) Production of farm products sufficient to feed the state's population, as well as continue to provide at least 25 percent of the nation's table food.

(3) Production necessary to meet the growth in export markets.

(d) To the extent feasible, the Department of Food and Agriculture may cooperate with the Department of Finance, the University of California, and other institutions and organizations in obtaining information for the forecasts.

(e) The Department of Food and Agriculture shall furnish the forecast to the Department of Water Resources for estimating related water usage, as well as to the Chairs of the Assembly Committee on Agriculture, the Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Water Resources. The Department of Water Resources shall include this information in Bulletin 160.

